

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

### Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A closing system for a natural or an artificial anus, ~~characterized by comprising~~ an inflatable balloon having an approximately a generally toroidal structure, formed of a hose segment with a two-dimensional surface, which hose is inverted into itself, whereby its two ends (13, 14) extend ~~roughly~~ generally coaxially with each other and are ~~(each)~~ connected to a respective sleeve.
2. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein said balloon (12) is preformed with two connection ports (13, 14) or ends.
3. (currently amended) The closing system as recited in claim ~~1 or 2,~~ characterized in that said connection ports (13, 14) or ends of said balloon (12) are preformed such that each or both of the end regions (13, 14) of the inverted hose segment have a ~~roughly~~ generally constant cross-section, ~~i.e., one having a constant~~ cross-sectional length.
4. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 3, wherein said connection ports (13, 14) or ends of said balloon (12) are preformed such that cross sections through the two ends of the inverted hose have different lengths that correspond to the different circumferential lengths of said end regions.
5. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein the

inverted hose is preformed such that its front end, which is distal relative to the mutually coaxially ends, assumes in the an inflated state a gently curved contour with no edge regions.

6. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 2, wherein said balloon is preformed such that it has in the an inflated state a diameter  $D$  that exceeds the a diameter  $d$  of the a bowel segment.

7. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in claim 6, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 6, wherein the length of the sleeve(s) is in each case smaller than one third the length of the balloon measured coaxially to the axis of symmetry of the inflated balloon, ~~preferably smaller than half the length of the balloon, particularly smaller than one third the length of the balloon.~~

8. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 6, wherein the collapsed balloon (12) is housed in a cavity (11), which is provided in a plug (2) and is directed toward the an interior of the bowel.

9. (original) The closing system as recited in claim 8, characterized in that two connection ports (13, 14) of said balloon (12) are each connected by their mouths to said plug (2).

10. (currently amended) The closing system as recited in either of claims 8 or 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said plug (2) is ~~composed of~~ comprises two sleeves (3, 4) that can be fitted one inside the other and in that the a mouth (15, 16) of each connection port (13, 14) is connected to a respective one of said sleeves (3, 4).

11. (currently amended) The closing system as recited in ~~one of claims 8 to 10, characterized in that~~ wherein the mouth (15) that ~~can be~~ is connected to the ~~an~~ outer sleeve (3) of the sleeves has a diameter adapted to ~~said the~~ outer sleeve (3), and the mouth (16) that ~~can be~~ is connected to the inner sleeve (4) of the two sleeves has a diameter adapted to ~~said the~~ inner sleeve (4).

12. (currently amended) The closing system as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 11, characterized in that wherein said balloon (12) can be pulled through a sleeve, preferably ~~said the~~ outer sleeve (3).

13. (currently amended) The closing system as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a sleeve, particularly~~ claim 11 wherein ~~said the~~ inner sleeve (4), comprises an air channel (17).

14. (original) The closing system as recited in claim 13, characterized in that said air channel (17) comprises a stop valve (19).

15. (currently amended) The closing system as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a filter, particularly~~ claim 11, wherein a carbon filter (21) ~~is or can be disposed inside a sleeve, preferably said the~~ inner sleeve (4).

16. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 10, wherein said plug (2) and/or one or more sleeves is/are connectable to a sealing cap (10).

17. (original) The closing system as recited in claim 16, characterized in that said sealing cap (10) is connected in adjacent contact to said plug (2).

18. (currently amended) The closing system as recited in claim 16 ~~or 17~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein said sealing cap has a folded structure.
19. (currently amended) The closing system as recited ~~in one of claims 16 to 18~~, characterized ~~in that~~ in accordance with claim 16, wherein said sealing cap (10) and/or said plug (2) is connectable to a collection bag (23).
20. (currently amended) The closing system as recited ~~in one of the preceding claims 16 to 19~~, characterized ~~in that~~ in accordance with claim 19, wherein the collection ~~receptacle~~ bag (23) is connectable to said sealing cap (10) and to said the inner sleeve (4).
21. (currently amended) The closing system as recited ~~in one of the preceding claims~~, characterized ~~in that~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein said balloon is made of a thin-walled polymer.
22. (currently amended) The closing system as recited ~~in~~ in accordance with claim 21, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein said polymer is a selected one of polyurethane, a polyurethane/polyvinyl chloride blend ~~or~~ and a comparable polyurethane-based material.
23. (currently amended) The closing system as recited ~~in one of the preceding claims~~, characterized ~~in that~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein a ring-shaped element is fixed in ~~the~~ a central lumen of the hose segment inverted into itself, said the fixing preferably being effected only along a narrow, circumferentially surrounding line so as not to deteriorate the freedom of movement of the balloon.
24. (currently amended) The closing system as recited ~~in one of the preceding claims~~, characterized ~~by~~ in accordance with claim 23, wherein an externally controllable sealing element, ~~particularly in the form of a separately~~

inflatable balloon, is disposed in the central lumen of the hose segment inverted into itself or, ~~as applicable, a hose region adjoining thereto.~~

25. (currently amended) The closing system ~~as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ in accordance with claim 24, wherein a tube, catheter or the like can be inserted through the central lumen of the hose segment inverted into itself.